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AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

NO. 7

MAY, 1989

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

ANZTLA is an association of libraries and individuals involved in and interested in theological librarianship. It seeks to cooperate with the Australian and New Zealand Association of Theological Schools and to promote its aims and objectives insofar as they apply to libraries and librarianship. However, membership is open to all libraries and individuals sharing the interests of the association, upon the payment of the prescribed fee.

The ANZTLA Newsletter is published three times a year to provide a means of communication between personnel involved in and interested in theological librarianship. Contributions are invited of articles and items of particular interest to theological librarianship: scholarly articles; information on all aspects of librarianship; book reviews; library profiles; and news about libraries and librarians.

ANZTLA holds an annual conference, where practicable in association with the annual conference of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Theological Schools. Local chapters in the major cities provide a forum for local interaction.

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A RATIONALE FOR RARE BOOK COLLECTIONS

Margaret Dent
[Margaret Dent is the Rare Books Librarian, National Library of Australia.]

Paper presented at The Third Annual Conference of The Australian and New Zealand Theological libraries Association, Burgmann College, ANU, 9.9.1988.

In order to talk about a rationale for rare book collections, it seems best to start this paper with a very basic question: what is a rare book collection? In fact there is no single definition, although there are some generally accepted criteria. Any library at all may have books it regards as special in some way, and wishes to take particular care of. The extent to which it can arrange to give such books special care depends mostly on its resources of staff and money, but I'll come to that sort of question later. The first consideration is to outline the type of books which a particular library might wish to consider for special care. Some widely used criteria are:-

1. Books valuable by reason of early imprint date:

   (a) All monographs published before 1801
   (b) Serials which ceased before 1801

   } Some libraries might choose to extend this to 1851 or even 1901, or if their collections are very rich they might reduce it to 1701.

2. Books whose irreplaceability or uniqueness makes them rare:

   (a) Limited editions, usually of 500 copies or less, of value in respect of content; private press books which obviously have a small print run.

   (b) Important association copies and important works autographed by their authors, illustrators or printers.

(c) Significant first editions.

(d) Editions of special note, including pirated and surreptitious editions.

3. Books of aesthetic importance including fine printing, illustration or binding, and special press books.

4. Books with significant manuscript or other material laid or tipped in.

5. Special collections, i.e. unit acquisitions containing both rare and non-rare material, which need to be kept together.

6. Books of high monetary value.

7. High quality facsimile editions of important books.

8. Other books which the appropriate authority designates.

This last category is designed to define the indefinable and predict the unpredictable, and it is important to have such an open category for the cases where a book does not fall into any of the earlier categories, but where it is felt that the book should be included in the collection - for instance if a book is particularly fragile, or vulnerable in form - for example a portfolio of loose plates.

There are two types of reasons why a library might decide to establish a rare book collection - those based on principle, and those based on practicalities.

In the first case a library is likely to have made a reasoned examination of its collection, and taken a conscious decision to preserve those "rare" books it already owns, and to add to them according to a deliberate plan.

This type of decision requires staff which many libraries do not have, and so is less usual than a decision based on practicalities, when a library finds itself with sufficient books

which it regards as special, and in need of more care than the rest of its collection. Then a rare book collection is the logical way of providing that care, with the books segregated in some way from the rest of its collection. A conscious decision to establish such a collection will be needed, otherwise an "ad hoc" collection is likely to develop and cause problems instead of solving them - or if no collection at all is set up the books may be lost or damaged. The decision is not always entirely up to the library: many libraries acquire rare or special books more or less accidentally - they may be donated, or may come as an inseparable part of a collection acquired for other reasons.

A theological library may follow the path of principle or of practice in a a decision to set up a rare book collection (or a combination of both, of course.)

By its nature, a theological library has a close association with the past - the history of the Church and of its religious institutions, the history of various religious movements and forms of belief, sacred texts of all kinds, including the Bible in all its versions, commentaries on texts, and the writings of religious figures from the early history of the Church to the present day. All these are represented to some extent at least in its collection, but whether in early or modern forms, the connection is substantial. It can be a library's conscious choice to reinforce this connection with the past through the acquisition of early editions of at least some of the texts involved, as this can be very valuable for students, both to give them a "feel" for the early works, and to introduce them to the content of the early texts in the original form. Seeing and handling an actual copy of a work which appeared at the height of a particular religious controversy, for example, can bring home to a student in an inimitable way the importance of the events of that time. The book can be seen as a historical object.

Rare material can often come to a theological library by donation, as donors tend to feel they can trust a theological library with their precious family bible or prayer book. Such donations may be spontaneous or solicited and may or may not be welcome - no doubt you have all been offered a "really old and valuable" bible which quite honestly you do not need and might not want. On the other hand the Bible Society's

magnificent collection at Bible House is based on donations which were sought many years ago in order to build a collection similar to that of the Bible Society in London.

Given that a library has some books it feels should be gathered together into a rare books collection, it is worth considering how to do this. It is often done by the ad-hoc method, and this is understandable, with the pressures there always are on libraries to give more and better service with fewer staff and less money. It is, however, an exercise which will amply repay the investment of some thought and the making of some informed decisions. These decisions should cover exactly what is to be included, what is to be excluded, whether it is to be a static collection, or is to be developed, and if so how, and whether more detailed cataloguing is needed for it than for the general collection. There is usually more information on a rare book which needs to be recorded and a full cataloguing record can save unnecessary handling of rare books. Other decisions to be made are:

- What security level is needed for its storage
- What type of access is to be allowed to users (including local use, interlibrary loan and photocopying)
- What kind of restoration, repair or maintenance work might be done on it, and
- How much money might be available for purchases, repairs, special shelving, and supplies such as acid-free paper or mylar envelopes.

Once these decisions are made, it is vital that they be written down and kept prominently before all those people likely to be involved in any way with the collection. Staff turnover is the rule rather than the exception these days, and even for long-term staff it is easy to overlook details among the pressure of other work. A thorough and readily available document on the collection will avoid many problems - and as a fringe benefit will save the local expert on the collection many, many requests for information on it.

When should a rare books collection be set up?

The earlier the better. If there are any "special" books in a library, then the sooner the decision to care for them in a particular way is made the more effective it will be and frankly, it will be easier all round: they will not be defaced by ink stamping if that is not meant to happen, they will not run the risk of loss or damage on open shelves or on the other hand they will not be put away "for safe keeping" somewhere, not to be found again for years.

Once the system is set up (and those clear written guidelines I mentioned earlier are available so everyone knows what to do) then any one can recognise an eligible book and deal with it appropriately - and consistently.

If left until late there are problems in:

- identifying eligible books
- extracting them from the general collection
- chasing those missing
- regretting loss or damage
- recataloguing
- altering records, and location marks on books
- trying to remove inappropriate markings from books

Where a rare book collection should be located depends on the current and projected size of the collection, and the level of security required. In some cases a lockable cupboard may do perfectly well, in others a separate room may be needed. Environmental factors will need to be borne in mind. Many libraries are not lucky enough to be air-conditioned, and temperature and humidity are very important in the preservation of books - a temperature of 20°C + 2°C and relative humidity of 50% + 5% are ideal.

Exposure to light is also a factor. At the least, light will fade bindings, at worst it will damage paper, making it brittle.

Shelving should be considered. Wooden shelves can look very attractive, especially displaying other leather bindings, but they burn ...

And while we're on the subject of fire, the almost universally-accepted sprinkler system will do the job it was designed for and put out the fire in your library, but it will soak all the bookstock in the process and the damage to a rare book collection is even more costly than the damage to the collection overall. It is worth considering alternatives, if possible.

A rare book collection is a responsibility, and a library with one is committing itself to its care and maintenance (if not its deliberate expansion) and infinitum. This need not be a daunting prospect if the guidelines are clearly thought out - and set out. And the rewards are great - the books in it will give the pleasure and instruction they were designed to give to readers who come in today, and they will be preserved to give the same pleasure and instruction to the readers of tomorrow, and the next day.

Announcing Important New Publications from SCM Press

GOD, JESUS and LIFE in the SPIRIT
DAVID E. JENKINS - *Bishop of Durham*

This book completes the trilogy begun with *God, Miracle and the Church of England* and *God, Politics and the Future.* The author turns from the issues of church and society that the previous two books dealt with and explores Christian faith and worship.
0 334 02018 2 *Pb. $19.00*

THE NEW CHRISTIAN ETHICS
DON CUPITT

In this book the author extends the non-realist approach of *The Long-Legged Fly* into the field of ethics. Contrary to popular belief, he argues, classical Christianity was scarcely an ethical religion at all, and indeed the phrase 'Christian ethics' gained currency only in the later nineteenth century. Don Cupitt argues that it is now necessary to shift the centre of Christian ethics away from the self towards public action in the world.
0 334 02201 0 *Pb. $26.50*

AUTHORITY IN CRISIS? An Anglican Response
ROBERT RUNCIE - *Archbishop of Canterbury*

'Gracefully he apologises that these are " the impressions of a practitioner rather than the systematics of a professional theologian" but this book's clarity and conciseness will do it no harm in the eyes of those drawn to it by its author's name ...he is not ashamed to be one of those who do exercise moral authority, and in the last resort legallly confered power, in order that individuals may combine in a society.'

David L. Edwards in *Church Times*

0 334 01882 X *Pb. $11.25*

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THE AUSTRALIAN BIBLIOGRAPHIC NETWORK AND AUSTRALIAN THEOLOGICAL LIBRARIES

Trevor Zweck

The Australian Bibliographic Network is into its eighth year of operation yet it still includes among its full service participants only one theological library; search and products users number only one and inquiry only users likewise only one! Yet 350 libraries around Australia are full service users and another 550 are various levels of user of ABN. Could 1,000 Australian libraries be wrong and 50 theological libraries among the few wise in our land? Or could the truth lie somewhere in the opposite direction? I have contended elsewhere[1] that theological libraries should be involved in this pan-Australian network; experience of the benefits of being a search and products user since the beginning of 1989 confirm the conviction that Australian theological libraries (individually and collectively) have nothing to lose and a great deal to gain from active participation. Averill Edwards, President of the Australian Library and Information Association, warns: "Online networks are the way of the future - unless theological college libraries join in, they will be left behind to flounder in an increasingly small backwater with ever decreasing resources."[2]

BENEFITS OF ABN

Theological libraries in Australia and New Zealand are increasingly becoming aware of the need to work together to maintain and to improve the quality of their services to users. The existence of the Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association and the friendly spirit which pervades its conferences and chapter meetings is ample evidence of this. But feelings are not enough; it is concerted action that is going to put required information into the hands of our users. Since

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[1] Trevor Zweck, "The Future of Theological Libraries in Australia and New Zealand:, *ANZTLA Newsletter* 6 (Dec. 1988), p.9.

[2] Averill M.B. Edwards, "Libraries and Librarians: an Undervalued Asset", *ANZTLA Newsletter* 6 (Dec. 1988), p.22.

none of us can provide all the information needs of our users, we need to share our holdings and the information about those holdings; and there is no more efficient and effective way that we in Australia can do so than through ABN. An effective use of the National Bibliographic Database can not only inform other libraries of the location of sought-after items, it can also inform our own acquisition practices and avoid the costly duplication of expensive materials. Co-operation in collection development will be further aided by the introduction of conspectus data in the next few years.[3]

A second reason for choosing to use ABN is the improvement it will mean in the quality of a library's cataloguing. For those not yet adapted to AACR2 cataloguing rules, it will mean an obvious improvement in descriptive cataloguing - though there is also an alarming amount of inferior descriptive cataloguing in the database: interim records with some of the data missing, cataloguing-in-publication records likewise, and even records from some cataloguing agencies (notably in Britain) which simply don't follow the rules! But the real benefit is in the area of subject headings. Whether it is because the cataloguers have more time to study the contents of the book, or because they have greater expertise in the allocation of subject headings, or superior subject expertise, or a combination of all three, the fact is that the records from national agencies and leading libraries which gain precedence in the database have considerably more subject tracings than are found on the cards of most (if not all) theological library catalogues. This means vastly improved access to information for library users.

A third compelling reason for involvement in ABN is the cold, harsh reality of simple economics. The chief purpose behind the establishment of ABN in 1982 was to share the effort expended in cataloguing and to avoid the pointless duplication of effort of dozens, maybe hundreds, of libraries around the country cataloguing the same item over and over again. In theory, it would be necessary for only one person in the whole world to expend that effort, if the information thus obtained could be adequately shared. While people originally had their

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[3] Warwick Cathro, "ABN's Services in 1995", *ABN News* 43 (Jan.-Feb. 1989, p.9.

doubts, the continued success of ABN is abundant proof of the extent to which this principle does work in practice. Libraries use ABN because it pays them to do so! In today's harsh economic climate, poverty-stricken theological libraries simply cannot afford not to be in ABN!

The experience of Luther Seminary Library since the beginning of 1989 shows that copy-cataloguing data can be extracted from the ABN database in a fraction of the time it takes to write it out by hand, and that it can be done for less than 50 cents an item. The 1985 statistical survey of ANZATS libraries revealed that more than 50% of all staff time in theological libraries is taken up with technical processing.[4] If this time can be more than halved - as Luther's experience shows it can - it will be possible to substantially contain rising costs and will release much staff time for more productive purposes.

COPY-CATALOGUING ON ABN

The ABN database was created by bringing together the comprehensive records of a number of national agencies, most of which dated from around about 1970. To this have been added retrospective entries, together with current records from a huge variety of national agencies and libraries. Today, the database contains more than six million records with more than eight million holdings statements added. Because of the comprehensiveness of the database from about 1970 on, and because of the simplicity of doing so, it was decided at Luther to do copy-cataloguing on all items bearing an ISBN. Using this strategy, we have consistenly attained a hit rate (i.e. of items found on the database for copying) for English language materials of more than 95%. A test run of 48 German publications, by contrast, yielded a hit rate of just over 40% (the actual number being 20). In simple terms, just about all the English language material is already on the database. It is again a very simple operation to add our call number and print off a copy of the record.

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[4]Trevor Zweck, "Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Statistics 1985", *ANZTLA Newletter* 2 (Aug. 1985), p.9.

To catalogue *Christianity in the People's Republic of China* would require the following commands:

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f i 0804214859 $,f
HNEW 1 MR5 B813
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The ten-digit ISBN is preceded by f = "find" and i = "ISBN" and followed by $,f, which is a request for a catalogue-card type of display. After this record is thrown up on the screen, HNEW is the instruction to the computer to register a new holding in the name of the library (i.e. its national symbol) which earlier signed on to the system. 1 specifies the first item on the screen (only rarely is there more than one) and the rest is our call number (Pettee Classification number plus Cutter number). Because we use a non-standard classification, we have to assign a classification number in advance; since Dewey numbers are almost always provided, they can be added by Dewey users as they appear on the screen.

While this strategy has been very successful, we soon found that it was also very easy to search using the command: f r followed by the LC card number or an abn or bnb number, or by the command: f t followed by several key words of the title. We also quickly found that we had to learn how to delete an incorrectly entered holdings statement with the command: HDEL followed by the incorrect information we had typed in. (You can't do this till the next day).

With a little practice, the two operations involved can be effected in less than two minutes; a person with reasonably competent keyboard skills will get it down to about one. Since connect time costs 20 cents a minute, and each record copied from the database costs 14 cents, the cost can easily be computed at less than 65 cents. When a holding is added, a credit of 41 cents is given. If no holding statement is added (as in the case when the search is unsuccessful or an invalid command is inadvertently typed in), there is a 24 cents charge for each such command in addition to the charge for connect time. For budgeting purposes, it would be wise to allow for about one in four such unsuccessful attempts, some of which are caused by a glitsch in the computer. The only other charge which needs to be taken into consideration as far as ABN is

concerned is the $100 annual service charge for a Search and Products user.

OTHER FEATURES OF ABN

The National Bibliographic Database also serves as a location tool for inter-library loans, indicating which Australian library/libraries hold a required item. The success of this feature depends, of course, on libraries being willing to submit holdings information; it is in order to encourage libraries to do so that ABN provides such generous credit for the addition of holdings. (It is possible to copy records from the database without adding holdings information, but in this case you are charged for inquiry commands and, of course, receive no holdings credits).

It is already possible for a small group of full service users to place orders for inter-library loans through ABN and it is intended to extend this facility to all others, including dial-up users.

A further feature of ABN is that it can be used to provide machine-readable (MARC) records for your local libary's present or - more likely! - future online catalogue. Since all your holdings are flagged with your library's symbol, it is technologically quite simple to download all such items onto magnetic tape for transfer to your local system. It is even possible to down-line-load such records - but at a substantial cost.

Other enhancements being developed by ABN include an acquisitions system (for online ordering from suppliers), enhanced subject headings, directory information and collection development (conspectus) data. Enhanced subject headings, which consist essentially of including contents or index data in the cataloguing record, is currently being field tested by a small group of major libraries in a limited subject area.

REQUIREMENTS FOR DIAL-UP ACCESS

Dial-up access to the IBM 3081K mainframe computer at the National Library of Australia requires no specific training and minimal equipment. ABN requirements are:

1. a terminal - TTY33 or TTY35 (i.e. teletype) compatability;
   ASCII character set and asynchronous communications;
   RS232-C interface; 300 or 1200 bps transmission;
   and (desirably) X-ON (DC1) and X-OFF (DC3) for flow control.
   The ABN handbook lists more than 300 makes which have been successfully used. At Luther, we discovered we already had such a terminal (a WYSE WY50) and a modem (Sendata 300) elsewhere on campus.
2. a modem - 300 or 1200 bps range
3. a telephone - either standard or datel.

While not absolutely essential, a printer is also very desirable - obviously so if (like Luther) you want to generate your own catalogue cards, but also useful for checking your search and input procedures. An alternative to the simple terminal is a PC (which of course can be used for other purposes), but in this case a communications software package (e.g. "Crosstalk") is also required. (The cost is about $50).

CALCULATING COSTS

The costs of establishing a dial-up facility consist of the prices of the above equipment and an initial service charge (joining fee). For top-of-the-range equipment we were quoted: terminal $1200, modem $900, printer $1200; however, it should be possible to obtain very adequate equipment for half those prices. Installation of the modem by Telecom may cost $600. The joining fee is $150 for a Search and Products user. Thus, it should be possible to get established for about $2500.

Estimating recurrent expenses is more complicated and depends largely on options chosen. The following example assumes that: (a) the library will print its own cards from a

computer printout; (b) 500 books are submitted for copy-cataloguing, with a hit rate of 90%; and (c) that copy-cataloguing takes an average of two minutes connect time. It should be noted that you are charged for unsuccessful searches or for invalid commands.

The service charge will be $100 per annum. Communications charges will add up to $200 (500 x 2 minutes x 20 cents). The cost of unsuccessful searches will be balanced out by the shorter connect time involved. Inquiry charges (based on a failure rate inflated to 20% to allow for second attempts, typing mistakes, computer glitsches, etc.) will add up to about $144 (600 x 24 cents). Products (i.e. printouts of the records chosen), which have to be counted by the user and reported to ABN every three months, will cost $63 (450 x 14 cents). Against these costs, ABN will allow credits of $184.50 (450 x 41 cents). Total cost therefore would be $322 per annum, or 65 cents per item.

At this stage, you still have to produce your catalogue cards or purchase them from ABN at about $1.20 a set. We have found it advisable to generate our own cards, as it is possible to edit the computer printout before sending it to the typist and we think we can produce them for much less than ABN would charge. If you are fortunate enough to be automated, you can, of course, get your cataloguing records in virtually any kind of computer format.

If you maintain authority files, these still have to be done also. This is an aspect of copy-cataloguing which will probably take more time, as ABN records typically contain more subject tracings than the average theological cataloguer would usually assign. The pay-off here, of course, is greatly improved access to information for library users.

Copy-cataloguing leads inevitably also to the streamlining of the workflow in the technical processing area. The book is actually in the hands of the cataloguer for a much shorter time and the various operations (classifying, cuttering, end-processing, authority work) become segmented. Thus you don't become so familiar with the books during the cataloguing process; if all goes well, you may be hardly aware of the author or title or subject of the book you have just catalogued. But

then, of course, with all the time you are saving, you may actually have time to pick up a book and read it occasionally!

THE FULL SERVICE OPTION

The dial-up mode of access has been described (and was chosen by Luther) because it is the cheapest and simplest option. It does at present however have one substantial limitation: it is not possible to add one's original cataloguing to the ABN database. But this soon is to change; it is confidently expected that original cataloguing will be possible for dial-up users by 1990. It will require greater expertise on the part of the cataloguer, as data must be input in the form of MARC (Machine Readable Cataloguing) records. This involves inputting the same information as would be included in a fairly full record in a more precise format than is done on a catalogue card. It is not particularly difficult for a trained or experienced cataloguer to adapt to, but ABN does insist on a full two-week training session for persons wishing to contribute original cataloguing and thus becoming full service users. (The cost is $435).

Full service membership of ABN is also available through the leased-line mode of access (as is the case with St Mark's Library, Canberra). This requires more sophisticated equipment, which must be carefully chosen in consultation with ABN to ensure compatability with the National Library computer. In this mode, ABN charges an overall monthly rental instead of the full range of charges to individual operations. It also pays a much higher credit for original copy contributed ($3.93 an item). Economically, it pays to be a leased-line user if you are doing more than 8 hours' work on ABN a month (or 96 a year).

JOINING ABN

For theological librarians, the biggest obstacle to joining ABN may well be convincing their adminstration of the advisability of doing so. If this paper will help, you are welcome to use it. While the philosophical and altruistic reasons for joing ABN are the really important ones the economic one is quite

compelling and should be sufficient to sway the most recalcitrant or reluctant committee.

Thereafter, it is simply a matter of purchasing the equipment and making application to ABN. Warwick Cathro, Director of Network Services, has made it clear than ABN is very keen to gain the membership of special libraries such as ours, realizing that they have substantial holdings of very specialized materials. So the approval of ABN is not likely to be any real problem. If you require further help, you should contact the ABN Help Desk on 008 02 6155. They will send you an application form and any other necessary information.

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THE AUSTRALASIAN RELIGION INDEX : A PROGRESS REPORT

Philip Harvey

For members of the Editorial Management Committee in Melbourne, the months of March and April have been filled with all but feverish activity. Firstly, following recommendations from a number of ANZTLA members, the serial titles to be indexed in the first volume were selected, some fifty-five of them. Then fifteen indexers were asked to work on these.

Arns, Hans (St. Patrick's College, Manly, NSW)
Bright, Judith (St. John's, Auckland)
Cain, Hal (Queen's College; Ridley College, Parkville, Vic)
Carswell, Pam (Joint Theological Library, Parkville, Vic)
Cole, Kay (Corpus Christi, Clayton, Vic)
Davis, Wendy (St. Barnabas College, Adelaide)
Greenwood, Helen (St. John's, Auckland)
Harvey, Philip (Joint Theological Library, Parkville, Vic)
Leggett, Jean (Corpus Christi, Clayton, Vic)

McIntosh, Lawrence (Joint Theological Library, Parkville, Vic)
Nichol, Beth (Hewitson Library, Dunedin)
Pryor, Lynn (Whitley College, Parkville, Vic)
Robinson, Kim (Moore Theological College, Newtown, NSW)
Smith, Gai (Catholic Theological Union, Hunters Hill, NSW)
Zweck, Trevor (Löhe Memorial, Luther Seminary, Nth Adelaide)

Each indexer was allocated a certain number of serial titles, the indexing to be done either comprehensively or selectively depending upon the nature of the particular serial.

The Editorial Committee felt that three data sheets were needed to adequately collect all the relevant information: an article data sheet, a serial information sheet, and a book review data sheet. Once these sheets had been drawn up by the Technical Sub-Committee of the Editorial Management Committee, guidelines were devised for them.

Guidelines must not shout orders, they must not fog things up, they must not point down several roads at once. They must be firm, clear and precise. The tone and manner of AACR2 seemed ideal for our purposes, advisory rather than dictatorial. Also, by keeping the guidelines to a necessary minimum, only dealing with the predictable pitfalls and obvious problems, the task would be made easy for the indexers. Indeed, the indexing of articles and book reviews is really a fairly straightforward matter of recording what is on the printed page. The only items of information that may cause some trouble are the subject descriptors, ie. the subject headings or topics assigned to the article.

A decision had to be made about which subject descriptor source to use. Our choice narrowed to *Religion Indexes: thesaurus*, 4th ed., the American Theological Library Association list of descriptors for their indexes, and *Library of Congress subject headings*, 11th ed. After random sampling of both we selected the former because it was truer to the spirit of an index, as distinct from a catalogue; was reliable in its revisions; contained very many specialised religious terms not found in *LCSH* (eg Docetism); was consistent with *Religion index one*; and was easy to manage and consult.

It was decided that *LCSH* could be used as a backup wherever the Thesaurus manifestly failed to supply the descriptor. However, it had to be stressed (and needs always to be stressed) that the Thesaurus is

always the chief source, *LCSH* a last resort. This is an important caution for cataloguers used to *LCSH*, who may go back to it out of force of habit or need of comfort. The guidelines make it quite clear that indexers should always say if they have drawn their descriptor from somewhere other than the Thesaurus. This is only right when we are wanting consistency in the finished product and not collisions of similar terms.

After a couple of hiccups with the copying of the Thesaurus at the Riverina-Murray Institute and much breathless debate about style and rules, the final package was dispatched to indexers amidst mingled sighs of relief and expectation.

The indexers should not feel isolated or confused. Open discussion about all aspects of the indexing (problems, comments, queries) is welcomed. Following the editing of the full returns, the editors intend sending remarks to indexers wherever it may be deemed appropriate, to help make the task clearer and easier still in future.

Once things are in full swing the next task of the Technical Sub-Committee will be to consider any revisions that need to be made for a second edition of the guidelines, and to compile a list of Australian terms not appearing in the Thesaurus or *LCSH*, for a projected supplement to the Thesaurus. Naturally, the indexers are invited to send any revision suggestions and any Australian terms that come out of their indexing practice.

ANZTLA AFFAIRS

By now, the 1988 conference seems a long way behind us and the 1989 conference almost upon us. In retrospect, many thanks to Peter Mendham and his staff at St Mark's Library for their efforts in organizing such a successful and enjoyable conference in such delightful surroundings.

In Canberra, we spent a lot of time on business matters, but there were some key issues and some far-reaching ones to be resolved. I was greatly impressed by the frank manner and the earnest level of the debate at times.

Regarding the Australasian Religion Index (ARI), we have "put our hands to the plough" and there can be no looking back! This project will call for the whole-hearted commitment of the association. Please begin (if you have not already done so) by sending your subscription (A$30 members; A$50 non-members) to James Henri, Centre for Information Studies, PO Box 588, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2650. Then encourage other libraries also to subscribe. This is a publication which should be found in every major library, as well as all libraries with an interest in religion and/or theology. Dr Lawrence McIntosh and his editorial team in Melbourne have been very hard at work setting up guidelines, selecting journals and indexers, and now have the task well in hand.

Together with the minutes of the General Meeting, you will also have received the ANZTLA Standards, as finally adopted at Canberra. Don't forget to use this document when presenting a case to the administration of your institution for the improvement of library services and/or facilities. Use it also in working together with other libraries for a better combined library service. Many thanks to Lawrence McIntosh for his contribution also in this key area. As directed by the General Meeting, the Standards hav been submitted to the General Council of the Australian Library and Information Association for endorsement.

Libraries which contributed holdings information to the 1983 edition of the *Australasian Union List of Serials in Theological*

Collections (AULOTS) will by now have been contacted with printouts for updating and will hopefully have submitted their updated data to Hans Arns, who now has the unenviable task of inputting the revised data and getting it published. If your library has missed out, you should check with Hans to see whether it is not too late to have your data included.

In recent months, I have become concerned about a trend among major public libraries (which enjoy public funding) to reduce their commitment to the acquisition of theological materials - meaning that the burden of supplying the theological information needs of the wider community is being left more and more to the theological libraries (which of course enjoy no public funding). I have written specifically to both the State Library of New South Wales and to the National Library of Australia regarding their policies in this area, because of recent reports about the collection development policies of both libraries. I have received courteous replies from both. Alison Crook (SLNSW) assures me that there has not been any change of policy for several years, but I nevertheless remain convinced that there has been a change of policy - perhaps a few more years ago than she is referring to! Eric Wainwright (NLA) assures me that my comments will receive due consideration in the current deliberations over the revision of the NLA collection development policy. Since both of these libraries are basing their policies and practices on use surveys (which have been published in *ABC News*), it would seem advisable to us to use these libraries as much as we possibly can for Inter-Library Loan purposes - to boost the statistics in the religion area.

Meanwhile, the next ANZTLA conference may be closer than you think - both in terms of time and of distance! Since the time of the conference has been altered from September to july, there will be only ten months between the 1988 and 1989 conferences. Our hosts at St. John's, Auckland, are well aware of this and are well advanced with planning; now is the time for us to commit ourselves to attending and making this a really memorable experience for our New Zealand members and colleagues.

Australian members may find that it is no more expensive to travel to Auckland than to travel to another Australian capital city. For the past few years, Qantas have been offering low-season specials which brought the cost of a Melbourne-Auckland return ticket below $A400. Student Travel Australia have already had a special below that level. Remember also that you will need a passport!

Finally, if you know of people or libraries which might be interested in ANZTLA membership or subscription to the *Newsletter*, please make a personal approach to them; we will need them to balance out those which are about to be struck off for failure to pay their dues in 1988!

(Rev) Trevor Zweck,
President.

Editoral Note: Both Qantas and Air New Zealand are presently offering their winter speical, Melbourne-Auckland return fare for minimum 6 nights out of Australia at $449.

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NEWS

Rev Trevor Zweck, Librarian, Luther Seminary Library, North Adelaide, has received approval for a job exchange with Rev Dick Mentel, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio. His duties will includ original and copy cataloguing on the new state-of-the-art OCLC system and some acquisitions and reference work. He will be in Columbus from August to January 1990-1991. Dick will come to Adelaide in July to familiarize himself with the library at Luther before Trevor departs. Both intend to undertake some studies while on exchange.

Rev Gary Gorman, Lecturer in Library and Information Studies, Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education, Wagga Wagga, is currently on sabbatical leave at Middleton, South Australia. He is doing research for a doctoral dissertation to be presented at University College, London (a division of the University of London). His topic of research is the information

seeking behaviour of theologians and philosophers. Most of the theological colleges in Adelaide are involved in the project, along with other tertiary institutions.

Liz Jordan has recently beean appointed part-time Librarian at Trinity Theological College, St Lucia. She comes to the position with extensive experience, especially in the use of automated systems. The library at Trinity is the first exclusively theological library in Australia to have an Online Public Access Catalogue. It operates on Olivetti hardware with Mic-Marc software.

Carolyn Willadsen, Librarian, Pius XII Seminary, Banyo will be temporarily absent from her position for six months, accompanying her husband on sabbatical leave during the second half of 1989. The time will be spent in Germany.

The Diocesan Resource Centre of the Catholic Education Office in Adelaide (Dorothy Rooney, Librarian) has installed a Dynix automated library system. The library's holdings comprise a small number of books and large number of audio-visual items, which are loaned extensively to all parts of South Australia. It is expected that it will take tille the end of 1989 to have the catalogue fully mounted on the new system.

The South Australian Chapter of ANZTLA is undertaking a survey of studnet use of the various theological libraries. Libraries are considering the introduction of fees for borrowers and the basic aim of the survey is to find out to what extent students are using a variety of libraries and which are the libraries most used. Students of all theological colleges in Adelaide currently enjoy reciprocal borrowing rights with all theological libraries. Various other aspects of user satisfaction with library services are also being surveyed.

Interest being shown in New Zealand in the forthcoming **ANZTLA conference in Auckland** practically ensures that the conference will witness the largest ever gathering of New Zealand theological librarians. Our hosts at St John's College are hoping that there will be a good number of attenders from Australia also to make this a truly memorable experience.

Qantas winter special fares (with minimum 6 night stopover) are $A380 return from Sydney and $A390 from Melbourne.

British library suppliers, Blackwell's of Oxford have purchased the Australian supplier James Bennett Library Services. It is not yet known what effect the takeover will have on either or both of the companies. Meanwhile, patrons of Blackwell's are enjoying the benefits of having their purchases air-freighted to Australia at the cost of normal surface mail. Delivery times have been cut to weeks instead of months.

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REVIEWS

GORMAN, G.E. and B.R. Howes *Collection development for Australian libraries* Wagga Wagga: Centre for Library Studies, 1988. 564 pp. RRP A$45.00. ISBN 0-9-19060-00-3

The first in a new series entitled Topics in Australasian Library and Information Studies, this volume uses both theoretical and practical aspects of collection development, including policy statement development, collection evaluation, and selection and weeding of resources.

It is divided into 5 Parts; Parts 1 to 3 cover respectively collection development policies, collection evaluation, use and user studies and selection and weeding of resources. Part 4 contains 21 of the most important readings in the various areas, in over 280 pages. The work finishes with a 40 page select bibliography.

The volume is designed to introduce practising librarians to the techniques of developing collection policies, implementing them through resource selection and weeding, and evaluating the results through use and user studies.

The 21 readings have been chosen as representing important contributions to the literature of their topic areas, and the bibliography should provide both libraries and student with a more than adequate listing of the most useful and important books and articles of recent years. The text and readings focus on the Australian scene, in recognition of both a dearth of indigenous professional literature and of unique features of Australian libraries.

The inclusion of sample development policies and of details of typical selection sources will provide ample material for both students and practitioners to use in the study of, and working in, this most professional of all the aspects of librarianship.

Available from: Centre for Library Studies, RMIHE, P.O. Box 588, Wagga Wagga, 2650. Tel: (069) 232.584.

IN BLACK AND WHITE AND COLOUR A SURVEY OF ABORIGINES IN AUSTRALIAN FEATURE FILMS

Peter Malone MSC

Nelen Yubu Missiological Unit, Series No. 4, 1987. Available from NYMU, 4/17 Jersey Avenue, Leura, NSW 2780. RRP $9.95 plus $1 p&h. Pp156 (text 139 pp)

This is the latest book in the Nelen Yubu Missiological series which aims to produce publications which examine black and white relations in Australian religious and social life.

The author, Peter Malone MSC, is a well known film reviewer and commentator. In this publication, Malone is primarily concerned with the feature film produced in Australia up to 1986.

The survey is intertwined with a commentary concerning the role that these films play in the depiction, development and reflection of white attitudes about Aborigines in the community. It should be noted that in this short study Malone does not concentrate on themes of racism or the half caste/black dimension which more polemical critics have elaborated upon. There is a brief chapter and some interrelated

interrelated comment about the documentary film. Overall some two hundred films are mentioned in the book.

Malone's survey is essentially a chronological history, though there are three distinct parts and thematic breaks. The first part surveys cinema from 1900-1970. In this part Malone examines the silent period: 1900-1930, sound: 1930-1960 and major films of the pre 1970 revival period. Part two is entitled Transition: Walkabout. This chapter is dedicated to the Nicolas Roeg film *Walkabout* (1971). Malone notes the changed portrayal of Aborigines within the context of this film and the new Australian cinema which had such an impact on the film industry. There is a more sensitive and positive depiction of aboriginal culture and life.

The third part, New Australian Cinema: 1970 - is divided into functional chapters including Children's films and telemovies, Small Budget Features, 19th Century Images, Into the 20th Century and Personal Mythologies.

About two thirds of the book is devoted to the New Australian Cinema. This arrangement is due not only to the resurgence of the film industry and the deepening of white Australian awareness of aboriginal life, but also to Malone's own experience in film writing and reviewing. He became the film reviewer for *Annals* in 1968. Very few films made before 1970 were (and are still) available for viewing. He points out that he has been quite reliant on other studies, notably Pike and Cooper's book *Australian Film 1900-1977* for information about the period 1900-1970.

It is worth noting that the first known reference to any aboriginal presence in a feature film was in *Moonlite* (1910). In this bushranging adventure, the director's wife played an aboriginal woman in black face. A feature of films up to 1970 was the portrayal of Aborigines by whites and the confusion of Hollywood style African cultures with aboriginal cultures. Some films examined aboriginal culture (and even controversial issues eg land rights) seriously, but most still portrayed Aborigines in a patronising way. Malone's discussion of Francis Birtle's *Coorab in the Island of Ghosts* (1928) provides an excellent example of this last point.

A film which could have been examined further is *Shadow of the Boomerang* (1960). This film was made after the Billy Graham crusade of 1959 by the Graham Association film group, World Wide Pictures. The study concerns a white racist American and his sister in outback Australia. The American's conversion through Graham's message and the witness of his tolerant sister lead to his change of heart toward the Aborigines.

Other films examined include the Chauvel classic *Jedda* (1955), a unique film for its time and Chauvel's last production, *Journey Out of Darkness* (1967), an enigmatic title and film, in which the aboriginal roles were played by actors in black face. The comparisons with *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith* (1978) are worth noting, but perhaps a better comparison at least for *Journey Out of Darkness* would have been *Backlash* (1986).

There are excellent discussions about small-budget features like *Come Out Fighting* (1973) and *Wrong Side of the Road* (1981) and *Backroads* (1977), in which Gary Foley was actively involved.

The chapter entitled Personal Mythologies is also worth noting for the sympathetic and spiritual examinations of the controversial Herzog film *Where the Green Ants Dream* (1984) and Michael Lee's *Turn Around* (1984). The extensive discussion about *The Last Wave* (1977) is also a significant contribution to the debate within Christianity about mystery, myth and other religions. A separate chapter examining in detail the film images of aboriginal religious traditions and the portrayal of the conflict and union between Christianity and aboriginal religious experiences would have provided a valuable link with the wider aim of Nelen Yubu. The notes and indexes are helpful, though a chronological listing of the surveyed films in the context of a comprehensive Australian film list would have been a useful comparative appendix.

In any survey there are necessary limitations. Peter Malone has provided a comprehensive survey which will be enhanced by further exploration of the many themes and questions he has raised.

Peter Bentley *Research Assistant* ,
National Catholic Research Council.

[Reprinted with permission from *Christian Book Newsletter* v.6, no 1, March 1988].

Lippy, Charles H., ed. Religious Periodicals of the United States: Academic and Scholarly Journals. Historical Guides to the World's Periodicals and Newspapers. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1986. xix + 607 pp. A$162.95 cloth ISBN 0-313-23420-5

One picks up what appears to be a 600-page bibliography of religious periodicals with more than a slight premonition of tedium and boredom, and in the end one puts it down reluctantly. Why this change in attitude? First, it is not a bibliography but an "historical guide" to a selection of academic and scholarly journals in all areas of religion. Second, it is extremely well written, combining detailed content analysis with interesting historical factors and complete bibliographical data. The editor has done his work exceedingly well, coordinating more than fifty contributors and ensuring that their contributions meet a high literary standard and common format.

In Lippy's words, "this book represents an effort to survey more than 100 periodicals and journals in the field of religion to provide students and scholars with an introduction to the kinds of periodical literature available and the types of concerns manifested in their pages" (p. vii). Given the nature of religious and theological literature, it is most important for the reader to be aware of bias and denominational or theological focus; for those journals analyzed, Lippy succeeds admirably in facilitating such awareness. In addition, "... the profiles also provide a history of religious periodical publishing in the United States and the ways in which periodicals mirror not only the changes in religious scholarship over the years but also the impact of other social and cultural forces on the character of academic work in religious studies" (p. vii). Again, the entries on

the whole succeed admirably in this task; for example, the five-page analysis of *The Catholic Historical Review* includes inter alia the most concise summary of modern Catholic historiography I have seen.

The contents are arranged alphabetically by current titles or, in the case of defunct serials, titles at the time of cessation. All variant titles have "see" references in the main listing, which is a significant aid to those who may not know the current or latest title. Entries range from three to six pages and consist of detailed publishing and editorial history and fully footnoted discussion of contents, including major changes in focus and controversial issues; in every case such commentary is by far the most illuminating and useful part of the book. Each analysis is followed by a bibliography of information sources, a partial listing of American Library locations and details of publishing history. This last section provides a bibliographical summary of the journal: title changes and dates, volume and issue data, publisher and place of publication, editors, circulation. For current titles there is no editorial address or subscription price, both of which could have been provided quite easily. While these data are not the main raison d'etre of the compilation, they could have been placed more suitably at the *beginning* of each entry as a bibliographical-historical summary of the analysis. Appendix A is a chronological listing of periodicals in relation to movements in American religious history; this is an excellent way to contextualize in tabular form the individual journal histories of the preceding 550 pages. Appendix B lists journals by either religious orientation or name of sponsoring body, and the index covers names,. titles and topics. Each entry is signed, so the concluding list of contributors, including their institutional affiliations and areas of expertise, is a welcome addition. The preface and brief (9 pp.) introductory essay aids greatly in explaining the purpose and setting the context for this admirable work.

Aside from the minor organizational criticism noted above, one inevitably contests the inclusion/exclusion of some titles; most are as much a matter of personal taste as any objective criteria. But can *The Christian Science Monitor*, a newspaper, really be justified in a selective guide to academic and scholarly journals? Similar studies of religious magazines and

newspapers, as well as guides to religious journals outside the USA, would be most welcome. Lippy is an essential reference work for any serious theological or religious studies library in the tertiary sector; it also belongs in collections with a focus on publishing, history or library science.

G.E. Gorman,
Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education.

PTCA BULLETIN : PROGRAMME FOR THEOLOGY AND CULTURES IN ASIA
(Kyoto: Singapore : Programme for Theology and Cultures in Asia. v.1, 1988)

Programme for Theology and Culture in Asia (PTCA) grew out of seminar workshops, the first one held in 1983 as a cooperative venture between Tao Fong Shan Ecumenical Centre, Hong Kong, and Kansai Seminar House, Kyoto. Themes for these workshops have included 'Doing theology with Asian folk-literature' (1984), 'Doing theology with people's movements' (1985), and 'Doing theology with religions of Asia' (1986).

The Programme states as some of its aims : to strengthen the formation of a living theology: to facilitate the growth of a creative theological community in Asia: to equip theologians and leaders with Asian resources for their ministries: to promote crative indigenous theological writing and to recover Asian cultural and spiritual resources.

Understandably, the contextual character of the bulletin is central. Contributions by such important authors in the field as Choan-Seng Song, Takenaka Masao and Yeow Choo Lak are an indication of its focus. It will act as a support and interesting counterpoint to other serials, most noticeably the thriving *Asia Journal of Theology*.

The bulletin keeps detailed records of PTCA workshops, as well as notices and news. Extensive bibliographies are a welcome feature for librarians, the first two issues containing a select list

of basic sources in Asian Christian theologies, subdivided by country.

Subscriptions from: Programme for Theology and Cultures in Asia, 23 Takenouchi-chô, Ichijôji, Sakyo-ku, 606 Kyoto, Japan.

Philip Harvey

CRITICAL REVIEW OF BOOKS IN RELIGION. (Scholars Press. 1988-) Individuals US$20 AAR/SBL members US$15. Institutions US$25, JAAR/JBL subscribers US$20.

This single volume annual is a collaborative undertaking by the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature, stemming from their two main serial publications, the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* and *Journal of Biblical;Literature.*

The editor explains: "*Critical Review* expands and enhances the existing book review sections of *JAAR* and *JBL* by offering serious critical reviews of those books which are important for a broad range of scholars in the field of religious studies." The book reviews are arranged into subject areas, e.g. biblical studies, comparative studies, Judaism, Islam, psychology and religion, women and religion.

The length of reviews ranges from three to five pages on average. They are both descriptive and critical in content, serving as a bibliographic access to necessary recent literature, and also as a reference work of critical depth for scholars and researchers. Author and reviewer indexes are supplied; I suggest that a title index would be a welcome addition, especially where the work is under an editorship.

The inaugural volume also contains a section of review articles on textbook literature in some of the sub-disciplines of religious studies. This section promises great rewards. The articles give excellent overviews of current work and are a good guide to recent thinking on religious literature, its uses and organization. Detailed bibliographies come with each article.

Critical Review is an annual. Its accomplished presentation and firm direction are an assurance of long life. This serial could well become indispensable.

Philip Harvey

Subscriptions from: Scholars Press Customer Services, PO Box 6525, Ithaca, NY 14851, USA.

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Editor:

Lynn Pryor
Whitley College
271 Royal Parade,
PARKVILLE. 3052.

Assistant Editor:

Philip Harvey
Joint Theological Library
Ormond College,
PARKVILLE. 3052.